CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for quantifying a pain condition of a patient, the method comprising the steps of:

acquiring pain episode data for the patient;

performing pain assessment on the patient; and

generating a multidimensional pain score that quantifies a pain condition for the patient.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of the performing pain assessment further comprises the step of:

determining if the patient is cognitively impaired.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of the performing pain assessment further comprises the step of:

acquiring a plurality of implicit pain factors if the patient is cognitively impaired, wherein the implicit pain factors are selected from the group consisting of patient emotion, patient movement, patient facial cues, patient verbal cues, patient position, patient guarding areas, observed therapy side effects and observed therapy side effect level.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of the performing pain assessment further comprises the step of:

acquiring a plurality of explicit pain factors if the patient is not cognitively impaired, wherein the explicit pain factors are selected from the group consisting of pain intensity, patient mood, therapy side effects and pain relief.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

generating an intervention required notice when the multidimensional pain score exceeds a predetermined intervention level.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

generating a factor score for each of a plurality of pain factors; and

generating an intervention required notice when the factor score exceeds a predetermined intervention level.

7. A system for quantifying a pain condition of a patient, comprising:

a means for acquiring a pain episode data for the patient;

a means for performing pain assessment for the patient; and

a means for generating a multidimensional pain score that quantifies a pain condition for the patient.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein the means for performing pain assessment further comprises:

a means for acquiring a plurality of implicit pain factors if the patient is cognitively impaired, wherein the implicit pain factors are selected from the group consisting of patient emotion, patient movement, patient facial cues, patient verbal cues, patient position, patient guarding areas, observed therapy side effects and observed therapy side effect level.

9. The system of claim 7, wherein the means for performing pain assessment further comprises:

a means for acquiring a plurality of explicit pain factors if the patient is not cognitively impaired, wherein the explicit pain factors are selected from the group consisting of pain intensity, patient mood, therapy side effects and pain relief.

10. The system of claim 7, further comprising:

a means for generating an intervention required notice when the multidimensional pain score exceeds a predetermined intervention level.

11. The system of claim 7, further comprising:

a means for generating a factor score for each of a plurality of pain factors; and

a means for generating an intervention required notice when the factor score exceeds a predetermined intervention level.

12. A system that quantifies a pain condition of a patient, comprising:

a description input mechanism that prompts the collection of patient pain episode data;

a pain assessment mechanism that assesses the pain episode data for the patient; and

a pain score generation mechanism that generates a multidimensional pain score from the pain episode data to quantify a pain condition for the patient.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the pain assessment mechanism further comprises:

a cognitively impaired pain factors mechanism that acquires a plurality of implicit pain factors if the patient is cognitively impaired, wherein the implicit pain factors are selected from the group consisting of patient emotion, patient movement, patient facial cues, patient verbal cues, patient position, patient guarding areas, observed therapy side effects and observed therapy side effect level.

14. The system of claim 12, wherein the pain assessment mechanism further comprises:

a noncognitively impaired pain factors mechanism that acquires a plurality of explicit pain factors if the patient is not cognitively impaired, wherein the explicit pain factors are selected from the group consisting of pain intensity, patient mood, therapy side effects and pain relief.

15. The system of claim 12, wherein the pain assessment mechanism further comprises:

a factor scoring mechanism that generates a factor score for each of a plurality of pain factors.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein the pain assessment mechanism further comprises:

a notice generating mechanism that generates an intervention required notice when the factor score exceeds a predetermined intervention level.

17. The system of claim 12, further comprising:

a notice generating mechanism that generates an intervention required notice when the multidimensional pain score exceeds a predetermined intervention level.

18. The system of claim 12, wherein the system is a hand-held device.

19. A computer readable medium having a program for generating a multidimensional pain score to quantify a pain condition of a patient, comprising:

a logic that prompts the collection of patient pain episode data;

a logic that assesses the pain episode data for the patient; and

a logic that generates a multidimensional pain score from the pain episode data to quantify a pain condition for the patient.

20. The computer readable medium of claim 19, wherein the logic that assesses the pain episode data further comprises:

a first logic, responsive to the logic that assesses the pain episode data, that acquires a plurality of implicit pain factors if the patient is cognitively impaired, wherein the implicit pain factors are selected from the group consisting of patient emotion, patient movement, patient facial cues, patient verbal cues, patient position, patient guarding areas, observed therapy side effects and observed therapy side effect level.

21. The computer readable medium of claim 19, wherein the logic that assesses the pain episode data further comprises:

a second logic, responsive to the logic that assesses the pain episode data, that acquires a plurality of explicit pain factors if the patient is not cognitively impaired, wherein the explicit pain factors are selected from the group consisting of pain intensity, patient mood, therapy side effects and pain relief.

22. The computer readable medium of claim 19, wherein the logic that generates a multidimensional pain score further comprises:

a third logic, responsive to the logic that assesses the pain episode data, that generates a factor score for each of a plurality of pain factors.

23. The computer readable medium of claim 22, further comprising:

a logic, responsive to the third logic, for generating an intervention required notice when the factor score exceeds a predetermined intervention level.

24. The computer readable medium of claim 19, further comprising:

a logic, responsive to the logic that generates a multidimensional pain score, for generating an intervention required notice when the multidimensional pain score exceeds a predetermined intervention level.

Patent Application